
THE WEEKLY PAGE

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

JANUARY 28, 2005

Pages Learn About Legislature

Pages write bills

On Monday and Tuesday, each page wrote a bill designed to solve a problem. Topics for bills included driving age, the WASL, reduced school hours for high-schools students, and cell-phone use. They reflect real issues that affect teen-age lives in Washington State. Once bills were printed, pages solicited so-sponsor signatures.



Appropriate Working Age

Today, Representative Sandy Afamasaga introduced House bill 1055, which addresses the issue of appropriate working ages that should be considerable. "The bill is a good one because it will stow upon our youth a sense of responsibility and early reality in life," said Representative Sandy. This bill will enable children grade levels eight and up to apply for jobs if they choose to and not let their age get in the way of their chances. There will be grade and behavioral checks gradually on the child to see if they are able to maintain a job and school and to see progress being made behavior wise. If the applicant has a history of crime they shall be put onto probabtion for a certain period of time until proven that he/she is responsible and capable of upholding their job. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

Bill Proposes To Prohibit Use Of WASL As Exit Exam

Representative Peter Arbaugh introduced House bill 1211, which addresses the issue of the use of the WASL as an exit exam for high school. "The bill is a good one because it is unfair to students to decide whether or not they can gradutae when they are sophmores," said Representative Peter Arbaugh. This bill would make it so students do not have to pass the WASL to graduate. The school may decide to still have them take the WASL but passage will not be used as a graduation requirement.. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.



Is Hands Free The Way To Be?

Today, Sen. Sean Brannan introduced Senate bill 1345, which addresses the issue of hands free cell phone use. "The bill is a good one because it saves lives," said Senator Sean Brannan. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan 25, 2005.

Minors Employed

Today, Senator Michelle Campbell introduced Senate bill 5001, which addresses the issue of Child Labor. "The bill is a good one because many young teens cannot provide funds for college with their parents earnings, allowing them to save for their college funds would give them an opportunity to learn and master their career," said Senator Michelle Campbell. The bill stated that minors over the age of 14 are permitted to have a certain categories. They are employed based on good punctuality, maturity, and consistent in attendance recorded. If they are denied position for employment for any reason other than the opposite they will be suspended for 90 days or longer.. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

Board game simulates bill process.

On Tuesday, pages played a board game designed to simulate for them the process by which a bill becomes a law in Washington State. They came to understand that only about ten percent of the bills that are introduced actually become laws. They also experienced the frustration of having a bill "die" in the middle of the process.



High School Dropouts Now Being Charged

Today, Representative Damon Christensen introduced House bill 1020, which addresses the issue of High school education. "The bill is a good one because high school education," said Representative Jennifer Pyon. This bill is about why most students drop out of high school. One large reason is that these students have to take the WASL every year. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee

WASL and Graduation Requirements.

Senator Clubb introduced Senate bill 7899, which addresses the issue of the WASL and high school graduation requirements. "The bill is a good one because it makes the kids who can't test as well as others know there is a chance out there for them to have a life," said Senator Clubb. This bill will help the kids who are just as smart as other kids in there class be able to graduate from high school and go on the college even if they cant test as well as other kids with the same level of education.. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

To Race Or Not To Race?

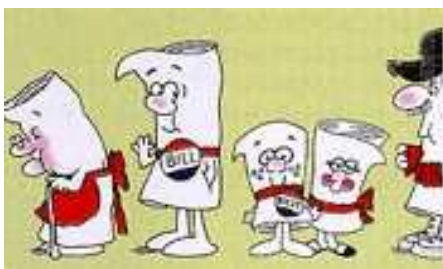
Today, Senator Kalan Coulson introduced Senate bill 5012, which addresses the issue of illegalizing road racing. "The bill is a good one because people usually road race at night and can't see as well if a person is walking across the street where they're racing and won't be able to stop in time," said Senator Kalan Coulson. Road racing can not only hurt pedestrians but the drivers too. If the driver doesn't see a bump or curve in the road they could lose control of the car and end up in a ditch. To prevent road racing, police officers will be patrolling major streets at night from 8 p.m. until 5 a.m. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 26, 2005.

No WASL Requirement

Today, Representative Joel Doehle introduced House bill 1227, which addresses the issue of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning. "The bill is a good one because it saves the government money and uses teachers where they are needed, in the classroom," said Representative Joel Doehle. This bill sustains the requirement of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning being given in the fourth, seventh, and tenth grades. It does not require a tenth grade student to pass the Washington Assessment of Student Learning in order to graduate. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

I'm Just A Bill video provides review of bill process

After playing the Bill Process Game, pages viewed the video *I'm Just A Bill*. Many of them stated that they remembered viewing this in elementary school. This short video accurately illustrates all of the steps in the process.



The Banning Of Pornography

Today, Senator Desiree Elder introduced Senate bill 7603, which addresses the issue of pornography. "The bill is a good one because pornography is sick. Kids and teens get their minds exposed to this disgusting stuff, whether it be by commercials on TV, magazines, or other media. Someone needs to step up and take a stand, which is what I'm doing now. Simply put, something has got to change," said Senator Desiree Elder. This bill tells what the punishment will be when somebody is caught doing anything with porn (pornography), explains the reward when someone catches another interacting with porn, and explains what will be considered porn. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

Bill Upends School Administrations

Representative Hayden Fulghum introduced House bill 2768, which addresses the issue of school property and program reevaluation. "The bill is a good one because it requires schools to keep updating, allowing a fuller learning experience. If a math or science program is languishing, this bill will cause it to be replaced," said Senator Rustin Winger. Schools will, every ten years, go over and replace damaged or old school property. They will also be required to update old or ineffective school programs. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

Creation And Evolution To Be Taught As Equal Theories In Schools

Senator Adrienne Goodrich introduced Senate bill 6725, which addresses the issue of Public School Curriculums. "The bill is a good one because many textbooks containing facts that have been proven wrong are getting fed to public school children. In a nationwide survey half the population of the believed that both Creation and Evolution should be taught. This bill is long overdue," said Senator Adrienne Goodrich. This bill would require updated or new textbooks containing facts that are backed by research, and Creation would be taught in schools as an equal theory. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

Recycling Is Required

Today, Senator Ip introduced Senate bill 8999, which addresses the issue of Water, Energy & Environment. "The bill is a good one because it reduces trash and improves the environment," said Senator Ip. Everyone is required to recycle everyone within his or her own property. If a person doesn't then they are required to spend 24 hours in jail. Recycling is where a person places a recyclable object in a recycling bin. A recyclable object would be paper, aluminum, glass, and plastic. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 25, 2005.



Pages lobby their own bills

Pages practiced several lobbying techniques as they encouraged their colleagues to support their bills in committee hearings. They created posters, white papers, and speeches. In addition, pages completed media releases for this newsletter.

Are Insurance Companies Really Providing Insurance For Their Clients?

Today, Representative Johnson introduced House bill 2004, which addresses the issue of Insurance Reform. "The bill is a good one because it will provide care for victims when their insurance companies who are supposed to don't," said Representative Johnson. This bill prevents insurance companies from denying care to their claimants and causing them to be cheated out of appropriate settlements. Many insurance companies charge their clients for insurance, but don't always provide that insurance. This bill will prevent this from happening to anyone in the future. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.



Teachers To Be Paid More. . . Interestingly.

Today, Senator Justin Quinton introduced Senate bill 7777, which addresses the issue of teacher payrolls. "The bill is a good one because some of the most important people in the country are paid the least in the country too," said Representative Joel Benjamin. This bill will put more money into the payment of teachers. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan 27, 2005.

Death Guarantee To Cut Crime

Today, Representative Anna Morgan introduced House bill 1009, which addresses the issue of capital punishment for 1st degree murderers. "The bill is a good one because ensuring that the death penalty will be given to murderers makes it much less desirable to commit that crime," said Representative Morgan. The bill promises 1st degree murderers death by lethal injection a year after the conviction date. However, it also provides leeway if evidence is produced which suggests that the convicted party is innocent; a final verdict, however must be given within five years, if contradictory evidence is indeed brought forward. Judges have the right to refuse the case, but are required upon accepting it to deliver the death sentence if the party is found guilty of 1st degree murder. Their failure to comply results in their forced resignation. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.



Can you hear me now?

Representative Patrick McMeel introduced House bill 1355, which addresses the issue of getting rid of people holding their cell phone while driving. "The bill is a good one because It will help to keep people concentrated on the road instead of what they are talking about on their cell phone," said Representative Patrick McMeel. The bill states that everyone who has a cell phone can take it to where they bought it and get a free headset. Also the bill will make it mandatory that all cell phone companies add a headset to every cell phone purchased at no extra cost to the buyer of the cell phone. This bill will should help decrease the death of people in car accidents do to cell phones. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

Committees debate bills, vote

Pages participated in simulated committee hearings on Wednesday. They read their bills and 'committee' members, governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, and debated the pros and cons of the bills. Amendments were proposed, some of which passed, most of which did not. When pages voted on bills, many ideas were passed on to an imagined legislative body.



Do You Want Your Children To Be Safe?

Today, Representative Jennifer Pyon introduced House bill 4545, which addresses the issue of keep cell phones by students in schools. "The bill is a good one because you will be able to know where your children are at anytime and from anywhere with a phone," said Representative Damon Christensen. This bill will help our parents to keep a good eye on their children. Since there are a lot of crime scenes on the road, parents want their children and students to be feel secure wherever they are. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 25th, 2005.

Stop Giving Away Money!

Today, Representative Stracener introduced House bill 1212, which addresses the issue of making giving tips optional. "The bill is a good one because it stops you from having to give money to someone who didn't earn it," said Representative Stracener. This bill would make it so that a person would not have to give tips to waiters or waitresses who do not do a good job. It would also give restaurant employees motivation to work harder. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26th, 2005.

Senator Introduces Bill For Later School Start Time

Senator Winger introduced Senate bill 5676, which addresses the issue of school starting times. "The bill is a good one because if schools started later kids would have more energy and be willing to learn," said Senator Winger. The bill would require all schools in Washington State to start no later than 9:00 AM. Kids wouldn't be as tired as opposed to if they started at 7:00 like some schools do. The goal is to help these kids learn easier and do better on standardized tests.. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

Cell Phones Illegal

Today, Senator Abby Winschell introduced Senate bill 5890, which addresses the issue of cellular phones. "The bill is a good one because it will make our roads safer," said Senator Abby Winschell. Talking on the phone while driving will be illegal if the bill is passed. You will be fined if you drive and talk on the phone.. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26th 2005.

Budget debate stirs emotions

Using actual state budget figures, pages debated how to balance the state's operating budget. Their task was to make up a \$2.65 billion deficit. "Is it always this hard?" asked a page as the debate intensified.

Smoking to be banned

Senator Woodruff introduced Senate bill 6789, which addresses the issue of Smoking. "The bill is a good one because It will save people's lives, and give us less populated air," said Senator Woodruff. This bill will get rid of all smoking, marijuana plants, and cigars, and fine people who don't choose to follow those rules. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

What Will Happen To Our State's Convicted Killers?

Today, Representative Carlos B. Amezcua II introduced House bill 6666, which addresses the issue of the sentence of people who commit hate crimes or murder. "The bill is a good one because it will save the state money," said Representative Carlos B. Amezcua II. This bill will save the state money by not having to house the future prisoners. This bill means that the people who commit hate crimes or murders in the future will be put to death. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26th 2005.

Do You Trust Your ISP?

Senator Matthew Jones introduced Senate bill 8755, which addresses the issue of Internet Service Provider Privacy. "The bill is a good one because it will protect everyone's information from being unwillingly given/sold to 3rd parties," said Senator Matt Jones. The Internet Service Provider Privacy bill basically requires that a waiver be signed in order for a company to distribute any private information on a customer. If an ISP doesn't distribute this information, the waiver is not required. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 25, 2005.



New School Hours Proposed

Today, Senator Thomas Lee introduced Senate bill 6969, which addresses the issue of education on students. "The bill is a good one because it would help students in education and after school activities," said Senator Thomas Lee. This bill is supposed to prevent sleeping in class, tiredness during school and after school, and more energy for after school activities. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on 1/18, 2005.

Rockefeller, Owen, Oke visit, speak, answer questions

Senator Phil Rockefeller (D-23), Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen, and Senator Bob Oke (R-26) joined the pages during their classes on Thursday. Each of them told students about how they came to be involved in politics and were elected to their offices, and they discussed issues they are working on during this session.



Graduation Requirements May Include More Health Education

Representative Meaghan Leferink introduced House bill 1367, which addresses the issue of Health Education as a larger part of Graduation Requirements. "The bill is a good one because it increases the amount of credit a student needs to have in Health Education from half a semester to one full semester, and the curriculum has to cover sex education, sexually transmitted diseases, and teen pregnancy and drug abuse," said Representative Leferink. Studies have shown that when students are informed about pregnancy, drug abuse, and sexually transmitted diseases there is less of an occurrence of them in that age group, which is the primary reason Representative Leferink wants to pass this bill. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

Victims Of Sexual Misconduct.

Today, Representative Loveless introduced House bill 1258, which addresses the issue of victims of sexual misconduct. "The bill is a good one because it will help put rapists in jail," said Representative Loveless. This bill is to help put rapists in jail. So people won't be so afraid to come forth and that they will just have to go through the pressure once. They won't have to worry about their rapists being out in the world free and able to rape/molest other people. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 25, 2005.

Iron grip of punishment slipping

Today, Senator Malone introduced Senate bill 8999, which addresses the issue of student discipline. "The bill is a good one because it insures fair and just punishment in our public schools," said Senator Malone. This bill would make a council for every public school comprised of students, parents, and school administrators. This council would review all the suspensions and expulsions and if needed change the punishment accordingly. The bill was heard before the Page Legislative Committee on January 25, 2005.



Tobacco Use Prohibited in Public

Senator Kylie McConnell introduced Senate bill 6192, which addresses the issue of Public Tobacco use. "The bill is a good one because many people find the use of tobacco use in public very offensive. They feel violated that they have no power to keep themselves from inhaling second-hand smoke from others, and this bill presents a solution for these people," said Senator McConnell. This bill would make the use of any tobacco product in any area other than a private residence against the law. Anyone in possession of an ignited tobacco product in a public area would be fined 300 dollars. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

Education: The Right To Fair And Balanced Learning

Today, Senator Jen McNeil introduced Senate bill 5517, which addresses the issue of Education. "The bill is a good one because so many schools funded by the government teach only one side of the origins of man. There is another side to this issue, and students have the right to know each side before they make a decision for themselves about what to believe. The job of an educator is to help in the decision making process by presenting all of the facts, not just those favored by themselves or others," said Senator McNeil. Bill number 5517, or the Origin Bill, suggests that the State of Washington create a universal Science Curriculum for all government-funded schools. A new Washington State Science book would be issued, solving both the problem of a fair and balanced education as well as new science books that would last the school a while and save them money. Schools can choose to either teach the chapters on Evolution and Creationism, or rather than favoring one over the other, teach neither. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

Pages celebrate, mingle at Thursday pizza party

Thursday afternoon, pages took a break from their regular duties and socialized with each other while eating pizza. This was an opportunity for House and Senate pages to mingle and get acquainted.

New High School Starting Hours

Today, Representative Michelle Stanley introduced House bill 3333, which addresses the issue of High School Starting Hours. "The bill is a good one because it will help raise test scores and allow students to work up to their potential by giving high school students more time to sleep," said Representative Michelle Stanley. By enabling this law, all high schools will be required to start at 8:45 a.m. or later, since they are in a crucial growing stage of their life. Studies show that when young adults are in their growing stage, they're naturally unable to fall asleep early. If high schools accomplish higher tests scores the following year, they will receive more state funds. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.



Teens And Education

Today, Representative Jasmine Edwards introduced House bill 1514, which addresses the issue of Teenage Pregnancy. "The bill is a good one because it helps the world realize how important education is," said Rep. Edwards. This bill is about the issue that pregnant teens are not allowed to attend school, due to conditions. This is just to help get them in school and also to help educate them in the interest of the child. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

Deplete Overusage Of Prescription Antidepressants Among Minors.

Today, Representative Sara Ivey introduced House bill 1737, which addresses the issue of overusage of antidepressants in minors. "The bill is a good one because it will significantly lower the percentage of drug over dosages and prevent the unnecessary cost of prescription antidepressants among the guardians of those minors," said Representative Ivey. This bill states that any person who prescribes or any minor who ingests prescription antidepressants must first get three individual psychological opinions, a written prescription and expressed written permission from parent or guardian. This process excludes minors currently on suicide watch or who have been in the past twelve months. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26th, 2005.

Stopping Graffiti And Vandalism In Our Neighborhoods

Today, Representative Amar Kroesen introduced House bill 2222, which addresses the issue of Graffiti/vandalism. "The bill is a good one because it will stop Graffiti and/or vandalism on our property but will still promote the arts and a secure environment for them to be enacted," said Representative Amar Kroesen. This bill provides an appropriate place for the art of graffiti, but protects the property of others. Also it makes it a misdemeanor to "vandalize" any private or public property. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 24, 2005.

Jeopardy creates hit

On Friday, pages tested their knowledge of the Legislative process in a spirited game of *Jeopardy*. Winning teams were awarded certificates and brightly colored stickers that they wore proudly for the rest of the day.

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Bill To Stop Spitting On The Street

Senator Jason Nelson introduced Senate bill 8999, which addresses the issue of Spitting on Public sidewalks and pathways. "The bill is a good one because it can improve public health and hygiene," said Senator Jason Nelson. No person shall ever spit on a public sidewalk or pathway. There will be a minimum of three days in jail for anyone who violates this law. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

Graduating Never Hurt Anyone

Today, Senator Arianne Paris introduced Senate bill 6999, which addresses the issue of Passing the WASL to Graduate. "The bill is a good one because having to pass the WASL may result in many of our young people dropping out of school," said Senator Arianne Parris. It is too much stress for our men and women of the future we don't want them to give up. We all we need to do is stop adding things to their graduation requirements. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 25, 2005.

Resolving The Voting Issue

Senator Lee Poor introduced Senate bill 5001, which addresses the issue of voter registration. "The bill is a good one because it will resolve the issue of ballot validation," said Senator Lee Poor. Sen. Poor's bill will make it where your voting eligibility will be decided by your education not age. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 25, 2005.



All Pages Have A Right!

Representative Chris Presler introduced House bill 1227, which addresses the issue of all pages having the right to use the elevators. "The bill is a good one because both the house and senate pages are happy," said Representative Chris Presler. The bill promotes quicker deliveries to and from legislators. It also provides easier transportation of large objects for the house pages. The pages are expected to let adults use the elevators before them and must use the stairs if the elevators start crowding. If these rules are not followed, the page(s) will be fined a five dollar fee. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 27, 2005.



Page School teachers

Page School's 2005 teachers are (l-r): Omar Crowder, BJ Meiggs, and Becky Parchen.



Gay Rights Step Up a Notch

Today, Senator Carmen Rivera introduced Senate bill 52489, which addresses the issue of gay rights. "The bill is a good one because it enforces equality among the workplace," said Senator Carmen Rivera. The bill narrows down discrimination in the workplace to people with non-hetrosexual orientation. It states that an employer can not discriminate an employee because of his/her sexual orientation. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 24, 2005.

Senator Robertson Introduces A New Bill: Relocate The Homeless?

Today, Senator Maggie Robertson introduced Senate bill 7827, which addresses the issue of homelessness. "The bill is a good one because it will ensure the well being of the homeless," said Senator Maggie Robertson. This bill is a way to introduce a system in which homeless people can be recorded by justice enforcement officials. It will also ensure the overall well being of the homeless by giving them the imperative means of survival.. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on 1/26/05.

Senator Introduces Bill About New School Board Voting System

Senator Shardelman introduced Senate bill 5998, which addresses the issue of students being allowed to vote on school board elections. "The bill is a good one because it gives students a way of conveying their opinions about how the school board should be run and who is the right person to run it," said Senator Shardelman. Every household with at least one adult figure should elect one student from the child siblings to vote, along with the two adults, on who should be elected on to the school board. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on 1 29, 2005.

Senator Vukonich introduces bill

Today, Senator Nicole Vukonich introduced Senate bill 7610, which addresses the issue of School Suspension. "The bill is a good one because it intensifies the seriousness of being suspended," said Senator Nicole Vukonich. This bill provides a safe structured place for those of our schools who have been suspended or kicked out. The duration of your stay does not matter. Students will be required to attend four hours of community service each day. One hour before school and three hours after school . The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 24, 2005.

Page School on the web

The Page School has its own web site. Please visit us at: www.leg.wa.gov/common/pageschool/default.htm

TV Commercials: Love Them Or Hate Them!

Today, Senator Kaylene Walter introduced Senate bill 5321, which addresses the issue of reducing TV commercials. "The bill is a good one because I can't stand too many TV commercials," said Senator Kaylene Walter. This bill is a great! If you hate TV commercials then you will love this bill! let's reduce the waste of time and waste of money and cut the commercials in half!. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 13, 2005.

Starting school later

Today, Jamie Bailey introduced House bill 1115, which addresses the issue of starting school later. "The bill is a good one because kids shouldn't have to start school so early in the morning. They fall asleep in classes and they aren't paying attention," said Jamie bailey The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 26, 2005.

Abortion Is Mean

Today, Representative Jordan Bakken introduced house bill 2929, which addresses the issue of Abortion. "The bill is a good one because It kills babys," said Representative Jordan Bakken. Abortion should be illegal because it is breaking the law of murdering. When you have a baby aborted then you have murdered a human being.. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on 1 25, 2005.

Representative Tries To Put Restriction On Certain M-Rated Games And R-Rated Movies.

Today, Representative Peter McCullough introduced House bill 2778, which addresses the issue of Video games and Entertainment. "The bill is a good one because it helps keep the minds of minors clean of the horrors in certain movies and games," said Representative Peter. McCullough. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on 1 26, 2005.

Historical pages

Our legislature has employed pages for many years. These photos are of pages who served in past years.

